



Improving skills and employability in Senegal's eco-construction sub-sector

Project implemented from: March 2022 to Dec. 2024

Sector: Eco-construction

Agency: LuxDev



Opportunity

In Senegal, the construction sector is increasingly embracing **eco-construction practices** to align with the country's sustainability goals set out in the Paris Agreement. However, existing Vocational Education and Training (VET) programmes primarily focus on traditional construction methods, overlooking the demand for eco-construction skills.

Elementerre, a company specialising in earth-building systems is leading a significant project in Thiès to construct a 150-home bioclimatic district. The project requires a **comprehensive training programme** to equip **qualified personnel** with the **necessary skills**. Elementerre presented their specific skill requirements to the Advisory Board established by VET Toolbox in the country.

This Advisory Board, comprised of key

stakeholders such as Eurocham Senegal, the European Investment Bank (EIB), the EU Delegation, Senegalese employers, the National Training Fund (3FPT), and the Ministry of in charge of VET aims to identify **concrete skills development** and **employment opportunities** in Senegal.

Acknowledging the importance of enhancing skills in earth construction to **meet the demands of construction companies** operating in Senegal, the Advisory Board selected this opportunity. That is how VET Toolbox launched the Jang Ban project, which focuses on strengthening professional training in earth and green construction techniques. This project targets masons, master masons, and site managers, particularly in the Thiès region, aiming to **enhance their skills** and **employment prospects** in line with the growing eco-construction sector.



Achievements

VET Toolbox works together with public and private actors to reinforce skills development and unlock job opportunities in the thriving eco-construction sector. Key achievements so far include the following:

- Organising **multi-level stakeholder workshops** between key private and public sector partners aimed at identifying private sector needs and a potential skills gap/mismatch between labour demand and supply.
- Signing a **formalised partnership agreement** between Elementerre SARL, a construction company, and Worofila, a collective specialised in bioclimatic architecture, and two training

centres to train the required labour force for the new eco-construction project.

- Expanding the professional training offer in the field of eco-construction through the **development of new professional standards and curricula**.

Key targets



120 people trained

60 graduates employed



Private partners

- **Elementerre SARL** is a construction company specialising in earth construction systems. It ensures the coordination and implementation of project activities and provides the technical expertise, training infrastructure, and capacities. They also provide work-based learning for trainees as part of the developed training programme.
- **Worofila** is a collective specialising in bioclimatic architecture. They contribute to skills needs identification and the development of training offers, hand in hand with Elementerre. Together with Elementerre, they also develop awareness training about eco-construction and bioclimatic architecture for public service executives.

Public partners

- The **Ministry in charge of VET** supervises the development and validation of occupational standards and training curricula.
- The **Professional and Technical Training Financing Fund (3FPT)** is the public body that manages national systems for the development and financing of vocational training in Senegal. It contributes to the financing of the Jang Ban project.

VET providers

- Two vocational schools, the **Technical and Vocational Education High School François Xavier Thiaw of Thiès (LETP FXT)** and **Higher Institute of Professional Education of Thiès (ISEP Thiès)** participated in capacity building as well as in the implementation of the training, both by hosting the training itself and liaising with companies to facilitate internships for their trainees.





Key success factors

- **Multi-level stakeholder workshops** on green construction with local actors allowed for an open discussion, and bottom-up needs and opportunity identification.
- The project is strongly **driven by the private sector**, represented by Elementerre and co-funded by 3FPT, ensuring that the developed training offer is relevant for the private sector and maximising the chances for employment after completion.
- Training modules developed with the help of 3FPT are automatically integrated into the training repertoire of the Ministry, facilitating their **efficient adoption by VET centres** for incorporation into other training programmes.
- Working in a truly **“opportunity-driven”** way, allowed for **tailoring training modules** for the construction of Worofila’s eco-district in Thiès.



Upscaling and sustainability

- Training modules on eco-construction are **integrated in the national framework** as well as in financing schemes of 3FPT ensuring continued implementation and **sustainable financial support**.
- There is potential to **upscale** the activities within the Thiès region (eco-district) and expand the training to the **national level**.
- **Capitalisation workshops** between stakeholders of this project and another eco-construction project are scheduled with the aim of exchanging experiences and expanding the concept to a larger scale.



VET Toolbox is a programme developing opportunity-driven skills development initiatives aligned with investments’ needs, supporting the private sector with local job creation. For additional information, please visit www.vettoolbox.eu.

A partnership project

Co-funded by
the European Union

